



## LAC DPH Monkeypox Update: Vaccine Referrals & Expanded Commercial Laboratories

July 14, 2022



*This message is intended for all Los Angeles County Healthcare Providers.  
Please distribute as appropriate.*

### Key Messages

- Monkeypox vaccine supplies remain very limited and are prioritized for residents at highest risk of exposure. Providers can now refer patients who meet certain eligibility criteria for monkeypox vaccination.
- There are now four commercial laboratories testing for monkeypox: Quest Diagnostics, Labcorp, Aegis Sciences, and Mayo Clinic Laboratories. Providers should submit specimens through commercial labs if possible.
- Healthcare providers must [report](#) all LA County residents with positive and/or presumptive positive orthopoxvirus test results from commercial laboratories.
- The LAC DPH [Healthcare Provider Monkeypox Hub](#) has been redesigned and updated. In addition to clinical guidance, infection control considerations, and reporting, it now includes the most current JYNNEOS vaccine eligibility, how to refer eligible patients, and quick links to key resources. Providers should reference this webpage frequently for the most current vaccine eligibility and vaccine referral guidance.

### Monkeypox Vaccine Eligibility and Referral

Due to limited vaccine supply, LAC DPH is offering JYNNEOS vaccine in phases. [Eligibility for JYNNEOS vaccine](#) will expand as vaccine supply increases.

#### *Current Groups Eligible for JYNNEOS Vaccine*

1. Persons confirmed by LAC DPH to have [high- or intermediate-risk](#) contact with a confirmed monkeypox case.
2. Persons who attended an event/venue where there was high risk of exposure to an individual(s) with confirmed monkeypox through skin-to-skin or sexual contact.
3. High-risk cohorts in the LA County jail.
4. Gay or bisexual men and transgender persons with a diagnosis of rectal gonorrhea and/or early syphilis within the past 3 months.

Note: Groups 1-3 are by Public Health invitation only.

### *Referring Patients for Monkeypox Vaccine*

Providers with JYNNEOS vaccine from the Public Health Department should vaccinate their own patients meeting the eligibility criteria #4 for monkeypox vaccine.

Providers that do not have vaccine can refer gay or bisexual men and transgender persons with a diagnosis of rectal gonorrhea and/or early syphilis in the past 3 months to a monkeypox vaccination site if they provide one of the following:

1. Proof of an appropriate and verifiable test result in the last 3 months of presentation. Proof can be on paper or shown from the patient's phone, including a screenshot of the result or within a patient portal; OR
2. A [Medical Provider Attestation](#) confirming that the patient has a history of rectal gonorrhea or early syphilis treated presumptively in the past 3 months.

Public Health Centers and Point of Dispensing (PODs) are current JYNNEOS vaccination sites. It is anticipated that certain community clinics will be accepting referrals shortly. See [Clinic and POD schedule](#) for locations and hours.

#### *Instructions for patients referred for JYNNEOS vaccine:*

- Patients must bring ID in addition to the proof of test result or Medical Provider Attestation.
- Patients should attend the PODs during regular business hours if they prefer to walk-in for services or they can call to make an appointment at our Nurse Only Clinic. No walk-ins are accepted for Monkeypox vaccine in LAC DPH Nurse Only clinics. Patients should reference the [Clinic and POD schedule](#) for hours.

Note: Given the limited current national vaccine supply, Public Health is prioritizing administering as many first doses of monkeypox vaccine as possible to all eligible persons at this time. As soon as federal vaccine supply expands, Public Health will make second doses available to those who received their initial dose.

## **Expanded Commercial Laboratory Testing**

Commercial testing for monkeypox continues to expand. Testing is now available through [Quest Diagnostics](#), [Aegis Sciences](#), [Labcorp](#), and [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#). Labcorp, Aegis Sciences, and Mayo Clinic Laboratories are using the CDC's orthopoxvirus test (which detects all non-smallpox related orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox). The Quest assay is a real time PCR test developed by Quest that detects DNA of non-variola orthopoxviruses and Monkeypox virus (West African clade)—see Quest [FAQs](#). The CDC anticipates [additional commercial laboratories](#) will come online this month.

Providers should submit specimens through commercial labs if possible. Follow specimen collection instructions provided by the laboratory.

Providers using commercial labs must report all LA County residents with orthopoxvirus positive and/or presumptive positive test results. See the [Reporting section](#) of the [Healthcare Provider Monkeypox Hub](#) for secure on-line reporting and other options.

### **Clinical Consultation or Monkeypox Testing Approval**

Providers who need clinical consultation or are requesting approval for monkeypox testing at the LAC DPH Public Health Laboratory should call:

#### **Los Angeles County DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control:**

- Weekdays 8:30am–5pm: call 213-240-7941.
- After-hours: call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

#### **Long Beach Health and Human Services:**

- Weekdays 8am-5pm: call 562-570-4302.
- After hours: call the duty officer at 562-500-5537.

#### **Pasadena Public Health Department:**

- Weekdays 8am-5pm: call 626-744-6089.
- After hours: call 626-744-6043.

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This communication was sent by Sharon Balter, MD Director Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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